AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for supporting the respiration of a patient comprising the steps of:~~

~~identifying the inspiratory and expiratory phase of breathing using at least one spontaneous respiration sensor adapted to sense the breathing of the patient; and~~

~~administering an additional amount of oxygen gas to the lungs cyclically in synchrony with the patient's spontaneous breathing pattern via a transtracheal catheter placed into the airway without occluding the airway to create an open ventilation system.~~

A method for supplementing respiratory volume of a spontaneously breathing patient, the method comprising:

a) inserting a transtracheal catheter into an airway of the patient, wherein the inserted transtracheal catheter permits spontaneous patient breathing while inserted into the airway of the patient;

b) determining a spontaneous inspiration process and a spontaneous expiration process of the patient; and

c) activating a pump based on the determining step to deliver a supplemental gas volume through the transtracheal catheter and into the patient's lungs synchronized with a portion of the patient's spontaneous inspiration process.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the additional amount of ~~oxygen~~ supplemental gas volume is administered at an ~~the~~ end of the spontaneous inspiration process. ~~an inhalation process.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~amount of oxygen~~ supplemental gas ~~has a~~ volume is ~~of~~ about between 25 ml – 150 ml.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~amount of oxygen~~ supplemental gas ~~has a~~ volume is ~~of~~ about between 25 ml – 150 ml.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of applying a countercurrent of flow into the lung in synchrony with the patient's spontaneous expiration process. ~~exhalation phase of breathing.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of applying a countercurrent of flow into the lung in synchrony with the patient's spontaneous expiration process. ~~exhalation phase of breathing.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus for supporting the respiration of a patient that comprises an oxygen gas pump operatively connected to an oxygen source, the apparatus further comprising:~~

~~a catheter connected at one end to the oxygen pump, and at the other end inserted transtracheally into the trachea of the patient and wherein the inserted portion of the catheter does not occlude the airway to create an open ventilation system;~~

~~at least one patient respiration sensor for detecting the spontaneous respiration phases of the patient; and a control unit for controlling the oxygen pump to deliver gas intermittently in synchrony with the inspiratory phase and or the expiratory phase of breathing, wherein the control unit is connected to the sensor.~~

An open system ventilation apparatus for supplementing respiration of a spontaneously breathing patient, comprising:

a) a gas pump connected to an oxygen source;

b) a transtracheal catheter having a first end and a second end, the first end connected to the gas pump and the second end adapted and configured for transtracheal insertion into the patient airway without obstructing the patient's spontaneous respiration phases;

c) at least one respiration sensor in communication with the transtracheal catheter and adapted to sense the spontaneous respiration phases of the patient; and

d) a control unit in communication with the at least one respiration sensor, the control unit adapted and configured to control the gas pump to deliver a supplemental volume of gas to the transtracheal catheter in synchrony with a portion of the patient's spontaneous breathing pattern.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a tracheal prosthesis having a tubular support body, wherein the support body comprises a connection for attachment of the catheter and wherein the catheter is inserted into the tubular support body, wherein the catheter and prosthesis are designed to not occlude the tracheal airway.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a tracheal prosthesis, wherein the sensor is associated with the tracheal prosthesis and wherein the sensor is not in line with airflow from the ventilator and not in the gas delivery circuit, and at least a portion of the sensor is in airflow in the trachea to measure spontaneous breathing airflow.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a tracheal prosthesis having a support body, wherein the at least one sensor is coupled with an ~~the~~ inner wall of the support body for generating a reference signal.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the second end of the catheter is located in the support body and is deflected approximately parallel to its longitudinal axis (L) and is provided on the end with a jet nozzle.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the second end of the catheter is located in the support body and is deflected approximately parallel to its longitudinal axis and is provided on the end with a jet nozzle.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the gas ~~oxygen~~ pump is a piston pump, which delivers gas toward the patient when stroking in both directions.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one sensor comprises at least two sensors.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the catheter has a double-lumen configuration, wherein one lumen is used for delivering the supplemental volume of gas in synchrony with the patient's spontaneous inspiratory phase of breathing and the second lumen is used for delivering the supplemental volume of gas in synchrony with the patient's spontaneous expiratory phase of breathing.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the catheter has a double-lumen configuration.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising an additional respiration sensor.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the at least one respiration sensor is adapted to be disposed on the second end of the catheter for positioning in a trachea.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A tracheal prosthesis comprising a tubular support body, a connection for a jet catheter and at least two one sensors coupled with the support body, wherein the prosthesis is configured not to occlude a tracheal airway to create an open ventilation system so that a patient is always breathing spontaneously past the prosthesis, and wherein at least one sensor is in the spontaneous breathing airflow in the trachea and is not in line with the gas flow form the ventilator.~~

A tracheal prosthesis comprising:

a tubular support body having a first end and a second end and a lumen therebetween, wherein the tubular support body is sized and configured to lie within and along a portion of the trachea without occluding the tracheal airway while permitting the spontaneous breathing of a patient through the lumen;

a connector on the tubular support body between the first end and the second end, the connector configured to attach to a catheter;

a catheter having a first end and a second end and a lumen therebetween wherein the first end is connected to the connector so that the lumen of the catheter is aligned along the tubular support body lumen and toward the second end of the tubular support body; and

at least one respiration detection sensor coupled to the tubular support body, wherein the at least one respiration detection sensor is in communication with the lumen of the tubular support structure without being in line with the lumen of the catheter.

20. (Currently Amended) The tracheal prosthesis of Claim 19, wherein the at least one sensor is coupled with an ~~the~~ inner wall of the support body in the trachea.

21. (Currently Amended) The tracheal prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the connector ~~connection~~ for the ~~jet~~ catheter adapts the support body to allow the sensor to be connected to a ventilation control system.

22. (Currently Amended) The tracheal prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the sensor comprises ~~of~~ at least two sensors, whereby a compensation of measured value difference between the sensors can be provided.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A catheter for delivering ventilation to a patient comprising:~~

~~one end of the catheter attached to a ventilator,~~

~~an opposite end of the catheter inserted transtracheally into a trachea of a patient, the inserted end not occluding the tracheal airway to create an open ventilation system, and~~

~~at least one respiratory sensor on the inserted end of the catheter, wherein the sensor is not in line with the gas flow lumen of the catheter and is in line with the spontaneous breathing airflow in the trachea.~~

A catheter for delivering ventilation to a patient comprising:

an elongate body having a first end, a second end and a lumen therebetween wherein the first end is adapted and configured for connection to a pump outlet so that gas flowing from the pump outlet moves through the lumen;

the second end of the elongate body is adapted and configured for insertion transtracheally into a trachea of a patient so that the second end may be inserted into the trachea without occluding the tracheal airway of the patient; and

at least one respiratory sensor postioned on the elongate body without being in the path of the gas flow through the lumen.

24. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 23, wherein a ~~the~~ tip of the second ~~inserted~~ end comprises a jet nozzle.

25. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claim 23, wherein the second ~~inserted~~ end has a curved course.

26. (Currently Amended) The catheter of claims 24, wherein the second ~~inserted~~ end has a curved course.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising the steps of: wearing the pump utilized in the activating step so that the spontaneously breathing~~a system adapted to support the respiration with open ventilation so a~~ patient is mobile.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as in claim 7, wherein the gas pump and the control unit are~~apparatus is~~ configured to be worn by a~~the~~ sponeously breathing patient.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of providing respiratory support to a spontaneously breathing patient with a catheter ventilation system, the method comprising:~~

~~delivering supplemental volume to a patient via a transtracheal catheter, wherein the supplemental volume delivery into a trachea is in the form of a jet from a catheter tip, and~~

~~wherein the catheter does not obstruct the airway and is an open ventilation system, and the supplemental volume delivery is cyclical and synchronized with the patient's inspiratory and/or expiratory spontaneous breath phase,~~

~~detecting the patient's spontaneous breathing by an intra-tracheal respiration sensor which measures intra-tracheal airflow;~~

~~providing mobility to the patient by the catheter ventilation system being wearable by the patient.~~

A method of supplementing a patient's spontaneous breathing using a wearable ventilation system, the method comprising:

determining the patient's spontaneous breathing by a respiration sensor which measures intra-tracheal airflow;

delivering a supplemental volume to the patient via a transtracheal catheter that does not substantially obstruct the patient's airway wherein the supplemental volume is delivered in synchrony with a portion of the patient's inspiratory and/or expiratory spontaneous breath phase; and

providing mobility to the patient by performing the delivering step with the wearable ventilation system that is configured to be worn by the patient.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the catheter has a jet nozzle and the cross-section of the jet nozzle is less than the cross-section of the catheter so that a discharge rate of supplied oxygen is increased.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the sensor is a temperature dependent sensor.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the sensor comprises two thermistor sensors to compensate for measured value differences.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a valve to control exhalation counter flow.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising at least two valves in communication with the piston pump to control gas flow delivering to the patient and recharging of the pump.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, the transtracheal catheter further comprising: a jet nozzle.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the control unit is adapted and configured to control the gas pump to deliver the volume of gas to intermittently increase the patient's respiratory volume.

37. (New) A tracheal prosthesis according to claim 19, wherein the catheter is a jet catheter.

38. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the supplemental volume is between 25 ml and 150 ml.

39. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the portion of the patient's inspiratory and/or expiratory spontaneous breath phase is an end of the inspiratory spontaneous breath phase.